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The Tradition of Peter (1)

Chapter One

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ²who've been chosen according to the foreknowledge of Godde the Mother and made holy by the Spirit to obey Jesus Christ and be purified by his blood: Grace and peace be multiplied to you.

³Blessed be the Godde and Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave us rebirth according to her great mercy to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an incorruptible, undefiled, and unfading inheritance kept in heaven for you. ⁵By Godde's power you're guarded through trust for a life that's ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶You greatly rejoice in this, even though for a little while now, if necessary, you've suffered grief in various trials ⁷so that the proof of your trust – which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it's tested by fire – may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you haven't seen him, you love him; though you don't see him now, you trust him; you rejoice greatly with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹receiving the result of your trust, the life of your souls.

¹⁰Concerning this life the prophets, who prophesied about the grace that would come to you, sought and inquired diligently, ¹¹searching the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when she predicted Christ's sufferings and the glories to follow. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were serving you, not themselves, when they announced the things that have now been told you through those who announced the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Angels long to look into these things!

¹³So prepare your minds for action. Exercise self-control and set your hope completely on the grace being brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ¹⁴As obedient children, don't allow yourselves to be shaped according to your former ignorant desires. ¹⁵Like the holy one who called you, become holy yourselves in all your conduct, ¹⁶because it is written, "You will be holy, because I am holy."

¹⁷If you appeal to her as the Mother who judges everyone fairly, according to their deeds, behave reverently during the time of your exile. ¹⁸Know that you were redeemed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with corruptible things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like a blameless lamb without stain. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has been revealed in these last times for you ²¹who through him trust in Godde, the one who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope might be in Godde.

²²Now that you've purified your souls by obeying the truth which leads to genuine love of sisters and brothers, fervently love one another from a pure heart. ²³You've been reborn through the living and enduring word of Godde, not from a mortal mother but from an immortal Mother, ²⁴because:

"All flesh is like grass,
and all its glory is like the flower of the grass.
The grass withers and its flower falls,
²⁵but the Lady's word endures forever."

This is the good news that has been announced to you.

Chapter Two

So put away all hateful feelings, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander. ²As newborn babies, long for the pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into life ³if you've tasted that the Lord is gracious. ⁴Come to him, a living stone rejected by mortals but chosen by Godde as precious. ⁵You too are as living stones being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Godde through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“See, I place in Zion a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in it will never be disappointed.”

⁷So it's precious to you who trust, but to those who do not trust:

“The stone which the builders rejected
was made the cornerstone”;

⁸and:

“A stumbling stone
and a rock that will trip people up.”

They disobediently stumble over the word, which is what they were destined to do.

⁹But you're “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, Godde's own people,” so that you may proclaim the virtues of the one who called you out of darkness into her marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you “weren't a people,”
but now you're Godde's people;
you “hadn't received mercy,”
but now you've received mercy.

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as foreigners and exiles to avoid fleshly desires which war against the soul. ¹²Show good conduct among the Gentiles so that, when they slander you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify Godde on the day of visitation.

¹³Defer to every human institution for the Lady's sake: whether to a ruler, as supreme; ¹⁴or to governors, as sent by the ruler to punish wrongdoers and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵Godde's will is that by doing good you may silence the ignorance of the foolish. ¹⁶Live as free people, but don't use your freedom as a cover for evil; live as Godde's bondservants. ¹⁷Honor everyone. Love your sisters and brothers. Revere Godde. Honor the ruler.

¹⁸Household bondservants, defer to your masters and mistresses with all reverence, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹Grace is given to anyone who endures the pain of unjust suffering because of their conscience for Godde. ²⁰What credit is there if you endure beating for wrongdoing? But if you endure suffering when you do good, Godde will give you grace. ²¹You were called to this because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

²²“He didn't do anything wrong,
nor was deceit found in his mouth.”

²³When he was cursed, he didn't curse back. When he suffered, he didn't threaten, but entrusted himself to the one who judges with justice. ²⁴He himself bore our wrongdoings in his body on the tree so that we might die to our wrongdoings and live to justice; you were healed by his wounds. ²⁵You were going astray like sheep, but now you've returned to the shepherd and bishop of your souls.

Chapter Three

In the same way, defer to your own partners so that even if they disobey the word, they may be won over without a word by your conduct ²when they see your pure and reverent behavior. ³Your beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment like braiding your hair with gold or wearing fine clothes, ⁴but from the inner self of the heart, with the incorruptible adornment of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in Godde's sight. ⁵That's how holy people of the past who hoped in Godde adorned themselves too, deferring to their own partners ⁶as Sarah and Abraham deferred to each other and honored each other. You're their children if you do good and don't fear intimidation.

⁷Be understanding with your partners in your life together. Honor them even if you're physically stronger, since they're co-heirs of the grace of life. Do this so that that your prayers may not be hindered.

⁸Finally, all of you, be of one mind: sympathetic, loving as sisters and brothers, compassionate, and humble. ⁹Don't repay evil for evil or insult for insult, but bless instead, since you were called to inherit a blessing ¹⁰because:

"Whoever would love life
and see good days
should keep their tongue from evil,
and their lips from speaking deceit.
¹¹They should turn from evil and do good;
They should seek peace and pursue it,
¹²because the eyes of the Lady are on the just,
and her ears open to their prayer;
but the Lady faces down those who do evil."

¹³Now who will harm you if you become zealous to do what's good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for justice's sake, you are blessed. "Don't fear what they fear, and don't be troubled." ¹⁵Revere Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to defend yourselves to everyone who asks you why you hope, ¹⁶but do so with gentleness and respect, with a good conscience, so that when they slander you they may be disappointed by your good conduct in Christ. ¹⁷If it's Godde's will, it's better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for wrongdoings once, the just for the unjust, that he might bring you to Godde. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he also went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison ²⁰who were disobedient in the past, when Godde waited patiently in the days of Noah during the building of the ark in which a few – that is, eight souls – were saved through water. ²¹This symbolizes baptism, which now gives you life – not a removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal of a good conscience to Godde through the resurrection of Jesus Christ ²²who's at Godde's right hand, having gone into heaven with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him.

Chapter Four

Since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention, because whoever who has suffered in the flesh has stopped doing wrong. ²So don't live the rest of your life in the flesh for human desires anymore, but for Godde's will. ³Enough time has been spent participating in Gentile desires,

living in lewdness, desires, drunkenness, carousing, drinking, and uncontrollable idolatry. ⁴They think it's strange that you don't join them in going wild and slandering Godde; ⁵they'll be accountable to the one who's ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶That's why the good news was announced even to those who are dead, so that they might be judged in the flesh but live according to Godde in the spirit.

⁷The end of all things is near, so be sensible and exercise self-control in your prayers. ⁸Above all, fervently love each other, because love covers a multitude of wrongs. ⁹Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰Each of you should use your gifts to minister to one another as good stewards of Godde's diverse grace. ¹¹Whoever speaks should do so as one speaking Godde's words. Whoever ministers should do so with the strength Godde supplies, so that in all things Godde may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever! Amen.

¹²Beloved, don't be surprised that you're being tested by a fiery trial, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³Rather, rejoice that you're sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also rejoice and be very glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you're insulted in Christ's name you're blessed, because the spirit of glory – Godde's Spirit – is resting on you. ¹⁵None of you should suffer as a murderer, a thief, a wrongdoer, or a meddler. ¹⁶However, if anyone suffers for being a Christian, they shouldn't be ashamed but should glorify Godde in Christ's name, ¹⁷because the time has come for judgment to begin with Godde's household. If it begins with us, how will it end for those who don't obey Godde's good news?

¹⁸"If it's hard for the one who's just to be given life,
what will happen to the wrongdoer and to the one who's corrupt?"

¹⁹So those who suffer in accordance with Godde's will should entrust their souls to their trustworthy Creator and continue to do good.

Chapter Five

As a presbyter myself, a witness of Christ's sufferings who will also share in the glory that's about to be revealed, I urge the presbyters among you ²to shepherd Godde's flock among you, not watching over them because you must but because you're willing, and not to make money but because you're eager. ³Don't lord it over those entrusted to you, but be examples to the flock, ⁴and when the chief Shepherd has been revealed you'll receive the unfading crown of glory.

⁵In the same way, you who are newer should defer to the presbyters. All of you should clothe yourselves with humility toward each other, because:

"Godde resists the proud,
but gives grace to the humble."

⁶So humble yourselves under Godde's mighty hand so that you may be exalted in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on her, because she cares for you.

⁸Exercise self-control and be alert. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist it and stand firm in the faith, knowing that your sisters and brothers all over the world are going through the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the Godde of all grace, who called you to her eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To her be the power forever and ever! Amen.

¹²With the help of Silvanus, whom I consider a trustworthy brother, I have written to you briefly to encourage you and to testify that you stand in the true grace of Godde. ¹³Your sister community in Babylon, chosen together with you, greets you, as does my son Mark. ¹⁴Greet each other with a kiss of love. Peace to you all, who are in Christ.